

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS NEWS

[Volume XXIV Number 4 * Summer 2007]

2007

Streamer Flies,
made of feathers
and fur by fly tier
Ellis Hatch, 2003
NH Folk Heritage
Award recipient

New Hampshire
State Council on the





TABLE OF Contents

- From the Director1
- Arts Council News2
- Citizens for the Arts Candidate Advocacy5
- Collections Management Update6
- Adopt an Artwork8
- NH Masterpieces9
- Arts Making for Senior Adults10
- Arts and Healthcare Grants, 2nd Round12
- St. Kieran Community Art Center14
- Red River Theatres15
- Heritage Arts – Build a Picture.....16
- Old House and Barn Expo18
- Around the State19
- National News23
- Grant Deadlines24

NH Arts News

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On the Cover

The Ellis Hatch Collection

The State Arts Council has embarked upon an ongoing effort to assemble a collection of the craft works of Folk Heritage Governors Arts Award recipients and master artists from the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program. The most recent acquisition is a collection of fishing flies by Ellis Hatch.

The first phase of the collection consists of 42 streamers which are a major category of fishing fly. Some are made to imitate bait fish, while others are made just to be colorful or attractive to fish. Typically, they are fished in fast moving water or trolled behind a boat. The streamers made by Hatch represent careful selection of materials from over 250 types of feathers and fur and tremendous artistry in their creation.

In 2003, Hatch received the Governors Arts Award for Folk Heritage in recognition of his efforts to preserve the art of fly tying. As a master artist he has taken on four apprentices since the inception of the Apprenticeship program in 1996.

This newsletter is available electronically or in alternative formats. Please call 603/271-2789



Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Photo by Lynn Martin Graton

I hope NH Arts recipients all got the chance to read Senate President Sylvia Larsen’s remarks in our last issue. They signaled an extraordinary change in how the arts are being valued as a public benefit. Quite simply, more legislative leaders are supporting investing in the arts for their intrinsic value not just for their extrinsic values, such as economic impact. This is a remarkable shift.

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia is also emphasizing the intrinsic value of the arts with his flagship initiative, American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius, and his slogan, “A great nation deserves great art.”

As someone who has been working in the state arts agency field for 20 years, come September, I find this very refreshing. I entered this field through the visual arts and museum door. I have learned to talk about the economic and social service benefits of the arts, and those benefits are, indeed, real; but I always felt that I was avoiding the major point of the discussion. It was almost like not mentioning the “wow” factor in a painting while thoroughly discussing its frame, materials, and historical context. That “wow” factor is the way a work of art can hit you in your spiritual gut and actually change the way you perceive yourself and your world.

Because the arts are powerful. Because the arts communicate in a multitude of ways that transcend words, numbers, and logic. These are the reasons that the arts can be adapted to suit so many

secondary purposes: improving economies, boosting student achievement, redirecting at-risk youth to productive paths, promoting healing and conflict resolution, creating bridges of understanding between cultures, and even political propaganda.

I always marvel that artists keep creating art when there is so much in society to discourage them. We are working hard at the State Arts Council to be a place where artists and arts organizations can turn to for support, public support. Given the limits of funding and staffing that are inevitable we often cannot do as much as we would like. Frequently we have to say, sorry, we cannot fund this project or that work of art. And, I hope, when those rejections are made that no one who works in the arts feels that it happens because we do not value the mission or the vision of the applicant.

The arts are a public benefit and deserve government support along with marketplace and private investment. In fiscal year 2008, it looks like we might have a little more money in our grants budget thanks to elected leaders who understand that. If true, it means we will have to say, “We’re sorry,” a little less often. Thank you.

Rebecca L. Lawrence
Director, Division of the Arts

Staff/Council News

Grant Information Sessions

The State Arts Council staff invites you to attend a grant information session scheduled for this fall. If you represent a school, community group, nonprofit arts organization, or are an individual or traditional artist, you will want to attend one of these informative sessions. The grants coordinators will introduce themselves to you, and provide an overview of the range and scope of the Council's work. You will be helped to identify resources that may suit your specific professional needs. In addition, you will hear tips for submitting a quality application. Breakout program sessions will allow you to ask questions specific

to your project or interest. Join us and learn how we may help you, your organization, or school, to promote the arts and the advancement of individual NH professional artists.

In the interest of tailoring these sessions to both organizations and individual artists, this year's sessions will target the specific information of interest to each group.

Registration is required. Please register no later than September 28, 2007. For more information, or to register call 603/271-2789. Updates and directions will be posted to the web at: www.nh.gov/nharts.

Organization Sessions

(may include arts and non-arts organizations and schools)

- 3:00-5:00pm, Tuesday, October 9, 2007 Rocks Estate, Bethlehem, Northern NH
- 3:00-5:00pm, Tuesday, October 16, 2007 Concord, NH *
- 3:00-5:00pm, Wednesday, October 17, 2007 Concord, NH
- 3:00-5:00pm, Thursday, October 18, 2007 Concord, NH

Artist Sessions

- 10:30-12:30pm, Tuesday, October 9, 2007 Rocks Estate, Bethlehem, Northern NH
- 3:00-5:00pm, Thursday, October 11, 2007 Portsmouth Public Library Library
- 10:30-12:30pm, Tuesday, October 16, 2007 Concord*

* All Concord sessions will take place at the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts offices located at: 2 1/2 Beacon Street in Concord.



When you register your car ask for a Mooseplate to support NH Culture and Heritage projects. Revenue from NH's Conservation License Plate restores and conserves the state's arts and culture through the Cultural Conservation grant, administered by the State Arts Council. For more information on this grant program contact yvonne.m.stahr@dcr.nh.gov. For more information about the mooseplate visit www.mooseplate.com on the web.

Paul Ferguson Joins State Arts Council Staff

Paul K. Ferguson of Manchester is the new Chief Grants Officer of the State Arts Council. In this capacity, he will oversee all grant-making and contracting activities and directly administer Operating, Project, and American Masterpieces grants for organizations.

Ferguson hails from a musical family. His two brothers are professional musicians and Ferguson himself plays guitar and produces CDs in his home studio. His professional experience includes work as an accountant, grants administrator and development specialist in private, non-profit and state government sectors. He was previously grants accountant for the Massachusetts Bay Community College, Portfolio Manager/ Community Development Representative for the Community Development Finance Authority, Executive Director of the

Derry Main Street Corporation and Development Specialist for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests.

He is a graduate of Bridgewater State College and has done graduate work in the area of Public Administration. He has served in a leadership capacity for many organizations including Derry Economic Development Corporation, Pathways of Derry, Continuing Education on Fundraising, and Upper Room for Teens. He is currently a member of the Derry Rotary Club, Greater Derry Chamber of Commerce and the NH Preservation Alliance.

Chief Grant Officer
Paul Ferguson

Photo by Lynn
Martin Graton



Welcome to Four New Councilors

Dr. Robert J. Begiebing

Robert Begiebing is a faculty member of Southern NH University where he directs the Master of Fine Arts program in Fiction and Nonfiction.

He is the author of *The Adventures of Allegra Fullerton: Or, A Memoir of Startling and Amusing Episodes from Itinerant Life*; *The Strange Death of Mistress Coffin*; and *Rebecca Wentworth's Distraction: A Novel*, for which he received the Langum Project for Historical Literature Award; *Acts of Regeneration: Allegory and Archetype in the Works of Norman Mailer and Toward a New Synthesis: John Fowles, John Gardner, Norman Mailer*. He co-authored with V. Own Grumbling, a critical study entitled *The Literature of Nature: The British and American Traditions*. His essays and poems have appeared in: *Harvard Magazine*, *Country Journal*, *Boston Arts*, *Connecticut Quarterly*, and *New Hampshire Times*.

Begiebing has served on the board of the NH Writers' Project and has evaluated applications for the State Arts Council and the NH Humanities Council. He is a graduate of Norwich University, holds an AM from Boston College, and a PhD from the University of NH. He resides in Newfields.

Dr. Robert Begiebing

Photo courtesy of
Dr. Robert Begiebing



Dr. Robert Duff

Robert Duff of Etna teaches courses in music theory within the Music Department of Dartmouth College, where he also directs the Handel Society and the Dartmouth Chamber Singers.

He previously served on the faculties of Pomona College, Claremont Graduate University, and Mount St. Mary College. He has also held the position of Director of Music for the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, directing music programs for nearly 300 parishes. He holds degrees in conducting, piano and voice from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Temple University. Duff earned his PhD in Musical Arts from the University of Southern California.

Duff has premiered works for both orchestra and choir. He is on the executive board of the Eastern Division of the American Choral Directors Association, and is a member of the American Musicological Society, the Choral

Conductors Guild, Chorus America, the College Music Society, Music Educators National conference, Kappa Phi Honor Society and Pi Kappa Lambda Music Society.

Sara W. Germain

Sara Germain is a consultant in arts management, specializing in fundraising, strategic planning, board development and project development. The Dublin resident has worked in non-profit arts management in various capacities since 1968, including director of development for the Peterborough Players, development coordinator and manager of the Robert S. Peabody Museum in Andover, MA, and executive director of the Grand Monadnock Arts Council in Keene. She was the executive director and registered lobbyist from 1985-1990 for ARTS 1000, the state's arts advocacy organization, and currently serves on the board of NH Citizens for the Arts, its successor. She has also been on the boards of the Peterborough Players, the Folkway

Foundation, Geese Theatre Company, Pontine Movement Theatre, the Consortium of Local Arts Agencies of MA, and The National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies (renamed Americans for the Arts).

Elizabeth Morgan

Elizabeth Morgan has over twenty-five years of fundraising experience. As a serious piano student she is especially focused on supporting music and music organizations. She is a California native but has lived in and around the Boston area since 1972 and currently lives in Amherst, NH. Most recently Morgan served the American Red Cross as the Northeast Regional Director of Development, having previously worked for various education and music organizations in both fundraising and administrative positions. She has extensive experience working with volunteer boards serving as board member, staff member, and consultant and enjoyed being part of the administrative staff of Opera New Hampshire, Monadnock Music, and the New Hampshire Symphony, where she also served as President of the Board. She serves as Treasurer of the New Gallery Concert Series in Boston and studies piano with Sarah Bob at the Community Music Center of Boston.



Elizabeth Morgan

Photo by Lynn Martin Graton

Arts Advocacy

NH Citizens for the Arts Launches ArtsVoteNH, a Primary Project

Campaign 2008 is already well under way and Americans for the Arts (AFTA), the national arts advocacy organization, is working to ensure that the arts are front and center on the agendas of the presidential candidates and that they understand the benefits that the arts bring to communities across the country. Thanks to NH's status as home to one of the earliest state presidential primaries, AFTA's Political Action Fund has granted \$50,000 to NH Citizens for the Arts (NHCFA) to spearhead a campaign to reach the 2008 primary candidates while they campaign across the state.

In May, NHCFA launched *ArtsVoteNH*, a project that aims to elevate arts issues before candidates by providing information about the impact the arts have. The bipartisan campaign is intended to serve as a model for other states that will launch similar initiatives during the year leading up to the election.



To effectively facilitate the project, NHCFA has hired Suzanne Delle Harrison as campaign coordinator to mobilize volunteers and administer the components of the project. Harrison has taken on the task of recruiting and training volunteers for every aspect of the project, including attending house parties, town meeting events and candidate forums, writing blogs and assisting with both office work and special events, conducting meet-and-greets in homes, and organizing campaign events.



(L. to R) NHCFA member Glenn Swanson, US Congressman from NH Paul Hodes and State Arts Council chairman Karen Burgess Smith participated in the 2007 Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC.

Photo courtesy of Karen Burgess Smith

A NH native, Harrison is the artistic director of the non-profit theatre group *Yellow Taxi Productions* in Nashua. In 2004, she received a "Forty under 40" designation by the *Union Leader* and in 2007, she appeared in *NH Magazine* as a "Women of Distinction" designate for her impact on the quality of the arts in the state.

NHCFA board President Marilyn Hoffman said, "We look forward to asking every Presidential candidate about their personal experiences with the arts and about any new initiatives they would bring to Washington, if elected." On the web, www.artsvotenh.org will provide reports on events and discussions by candidates, as well as state and local research on the impact of the arts. "We will share through our website how the candidates plan to use arts programs as part of the solution to our nation's key problems," Hoffman explained.

For more information about *ArtsVoteNH*, or to volunteer, contact Suzanne Delle Harrison at 603-703-4414, or sdelle@artsvotenh.org. Visit *ArtsVoteNH* on the web at www.artsvotenh.org. For more information about NH Citizens for the Arts, visit www.nhcfa.org.

Suzanne Delle Harrison is the campaign coordinator of *ArtsVoteNH*

Photo by Claire Newman-Williams



Dr. Robert Duff

Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert Duff



Sara Germain

Photo by Lynn Martin Graton

Collections Management Update

Artworks Beautify NH's Public Buildings



River Drivers by Berlin
artist and Governors
Arts Award Living
Treasure recipient
Robert Hughes. Relief
sculpture created in
1996 from native pine,
4' x 5' x 2.5" On display
at the Coos County
Superior Court.

Photos by
Carey Johnson

Have you ever driven down Interstate 95 and noticed the large copper weather-vanes on top of the State Liquor Store building in Hampton? Did you know that those were created in 1996 by William Barth Osmundsen of New Durham and are a part of the state's Percent for Art collection? Soon residents and visitors alike will have the tools to learn more about such artwork which can be found across the state.

In 1979, New Hampshire passed a law (RSA 19A) that gives everyone who enters a state building the chance to discover quality art by a New Hampshire artist. The Percent for Art State Art Fund is used to acquire artwork or historic objects for display in state buildings and facilities. The Fund is referred to as "Percent for Art" because the amount of money set aside in a non-lapsing fund is one-half of one percent of the bid contract price of each new building or major addition by the capital budget. Funds are not generated every year, only when the state approves eligible capital projects.

The State Arts Council, with leadership direction from the Department of Cultural Resources, administers the art

Nature's Sonata by
Susan Pratt-Smith,
two-time Artist
Fellowship recipient
from Northwood.

Fused & stained
glass windows
created in 1999,
81" x 38.5"

In the Chapel of the
Glencliff Home for
the Elderly.



selection process, the installation of the artwork, and their future maintenance. Most states throughout the country have similar Percent for Art programs.

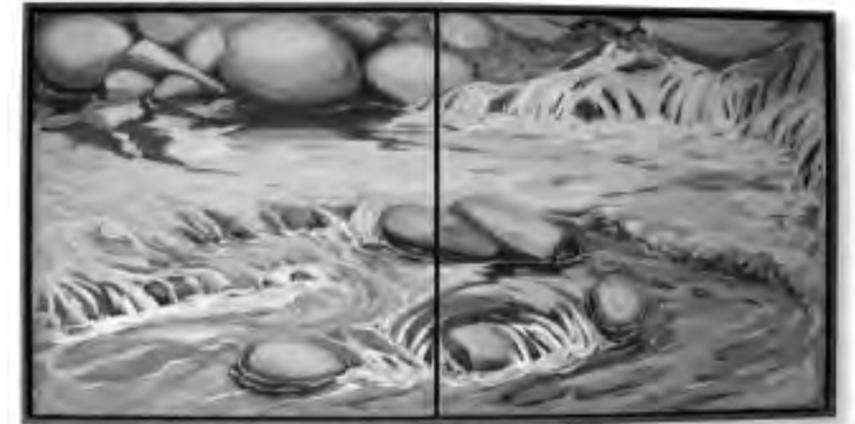
In the Percent for Art program, artwork for a building is selected by a Site Advisory Committee from the State agency and by the Art Selection Committee convened by the State Arts Council. Each artwork is chosen in response to the interest of both committees, for a specific public location, in a particular style, medium and content for the building. The Committee recommendations are then submitted to the Governor and Executive Council for approval.

In an effort to update the Arts Council Collections Management database with current information and images, Arts Council staff has begun a tour of the state artwork collection. A staff member will be visiting all of the sites where Percent for Art funded works are on display.

While at the various sites, staff will also be caring for the artwork, making sure it is in good condition, as well as adding an attractive metal label so visitors can learn more about each individual artwork and the Percent for Art program.

The first set of site visits were completed this fall in the North Country. Arts Council staff went to Plymouth District Court, Coos County Superior Court and the Fish & Game Regional Office in Lancaster, Northern NH Correctional Facility in Berlin, Glencliff Home for the Elderly, and the Lebanon District Court.

Along with updating the collection records and caring for the objects, another goal of this project is to make information on these 500+ artworks available to the public on the web – www.nh.gov/nharts. There are really beautiful works of art scattered all over the state – the State Arts Council's objective is to make the public aware of the artworks on view and where they can be found.



Cold River at Whiteface by Roster artist Carol
Jowdy of Center Sandwich

Oil painting on canvas created in 1995, 31"x31"

On display at the Plymouth District Court.



Passage by Northwood artist and Lifetime
Fellow Gary Haven Smith.

Abstract sculpture created in 2000 from
granite, 10' x 4' x 4'

At the entrance of the Northern NH
Correctional Facility.

Adopt an Artwork

Three NH Artworks Find Homes

In early 2006, the State Arts Council purchased four artworks from four NH Lifetime Fellows. (NH artists, in any discipline, who have received three NH Fellowship awards.)

The four works comprised the exhibit NH Inspired: A New Hampshire Collection that was on view at the State Library from January 18th through February 23rd. The exhibit opening, attended by agency directors and government leadership, served to launch the "Adopt an Artwork" program where state agencies were invited to apply for adoption of any of the four available artworks through the Percent for Art Program and the State Arts Council.

Three of the artworks were successfully adopted by agencies. Jon Brooks' wooden sculpture, *Angel Dog*, is still available and living in the State Arts Council's public conference room until the right agency environment can be found.



- The pastel triptych *Marshland Grasses and Trees* by Carol Aronson-Shore of Portsmouth was adopted by Rep. Marjorie Smith for placement in the House Finance Committee Conference Room in the Legislative Office Building in Concord. (above)
- The painting *Still Life with Parrot Tulips* by James Aponovich of Hancock was adopted by Senate President Sylvia Larsen and Chief of Staff Donna Soucy for the 3rd Floor Senate President's Office Reception area.
- The diorite stone sculpture entitled *Diora*, by Gary Haven Smith of Northwood will be installed in front of the State Library as soon as the foundation is completed. (bottom left)

Rep. Smith said, "We spend much of our time struggling with how to allocate limited resources to meet the needs of the citizens of the state... the public and the committee alike could benefit from the serenity that one experiences when seeing this wonderful art which represents the beauty of New Hampshire."

To learn more about NH's Percent for Art Program and to view an on-line gallery of previous State Arts Council exhibits visit www.nh.gov/nharts.



Jon Brooks' artwork entitled *Angel Dog* is still looking for the right home

Photo courtesy of Jon Brooks



New Hampshire Masterpieces

Contributing to the Nation's Artistic Heritage

Quick, what world-famous sculptor had his studio and residence in New Hampshire? Name the Broadway composer who resided at the MacDowell Colony. What studio potter publishes the most influential magazine in the country for potters? If you don't know the answers, you will, thanks to American Masterpieces, a grant program launched by the National Endowment for the Arts to support works by recognized American master artists. (There are a couple of hints below.)

The State Arts Council has begun implementing the American Masterpieces initiative as NH Inspirations to support the presenting, touring, and/or teaching of masterpiece works that have a connection to the Granite State. Approximately \$50,000 is available per fiscal year comprised as a competitive grant to NH nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, and college art galleries. The State Arts Council has set up two deadlines to allow for two rounds of applications in this category.

To date, during the first round of funding, the Council has approved projects that feature works by artists such as illustrator Maxfield Parrish, composers Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Aaron Copeland, sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens, and master studio potters Otto Heine, the Scheiers and Gerry Williams.

Rather than having these be isolated projects, the State Arts Council is planning to package curriculum resource materials that grow out of the projects that are funded. The materials will be comprised of a compact disc of choral music with NH connections. Creating these materials to complement the programs serves a two-fold purpose. It raises the visibility of this aspect of NH's contributions to America's cultural legacy and will provide curriculum resources to meet the needs of music educators and teachers of NH history. It



Composer Leonard Bernstein wrote the scores for the acclaimed musicals *West Side Story* and *Candide*. As a young composer he had been a colonist at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough.

will add depth to the resources available to educators to integrate the arts into the social studies curriculum, and will provide music educators with original recordings of music that relate to the state where their students live.

It also encourages the revival of some forgotten or lesser known works and gives them fresh presentations to new audiences. The compact disc recording will feature performances by community choruses performing works by composers with a NH connection such as Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copeland, both of whom were MacDowell Colonists.

The project will be undertaken in partnership with the NH Humanities Council, who will identify and fund scholars to write text for in depth liner notes. The recording will also be packaged with promotional materials for the project.

For more information about American Masterpieces: NH Inspirations visit www.nh.gov/nharts.

"Morning" by Maxfield Parrish. Illustrator Maxfield Parrish built his estate *The Oaks* at Cornish where he hosted scores of fellow artists. The area subsequently became known as an artist colony.





By Lucy Crichton Chaplain, and
Abigail Sykas, Vice President of
Development, Public Relations &
Programs, Havenwood
Heritage Heights

All photos by Ken Williams

Rhythm Renewal

"I thought I'd resist, that I was too shy to drum since I've never done it, but Michael and the residents gave me courage," reflected a staff member at Havenwood-Heritage Heights following the week-long artist in residence program with master drummer Michael Wingfield. He drummed, sang and danced his way through a full schedule with residents and staff in this community of nearly 1,000 people. The residency was funded through a project grant from the State Arts Council's new New Hampshire Arts in Health Care Initiative.

This was the first artist in residence program for Havenwood-Heritage Heights (HHH), a continuing care retirement community that focuses on enhancing all aspects of wellness for residents, who live in settings ranging from fully independent to skilled nursing. Wingfield's enthusiasm and persuasive personality contributed a great deal to the success of the week. The evaluations tell the story: "It was fabulous. The residents who live with memory loss were focused, followed directions and participated for a long time," observed one staff member. "The joy and happiness on their faces spoke volumes." Another spoke about a mostly non-responsive resident who "smiled ear to ear when she was given a tambourine." Asked the question, "How was the experience for you?" a resident responded, "Involving and great – I felt free!" Another called it, "Exhilarating!" Many talked about the joy of residents and staff drumming together remarking, "It was a good community builder."

Lucy Crichton, a chaplain at HHH, conceived the program after attending an arts in health care orientation session led by Judy Rigmont, Community Arts Coordinator of the NH State Council on the Arts and her regional counterparts. "I saw a video of Michael (Wingfield) in action and thought it would be wonderful to host him at HHH," said Rigmont. "A second residency was held this winter with musician/choral director Carolyn Parrott who led singing for singers and non-singers alike in a style that brings people together. She helped people who thought they had lost their voice to 'find it' again. The goal is to continue involving everyone in music making. So far the response from the community has been exceptional."



To make this first artist residency program a success, both Wingfield and the staff at HHH spent time planning and preparing. A month before the scheduled residency, Wingfield toured the campus and met with a core group of senior staff including Michael Palmieri, President and CEO of Havenwood Heritage Heights. Wingfield stressed the importance of everyone's participation. HHH promoted Wingfield's residency through its in-house television station and televised calendar, through the weekly resident newsletter, and via employee payroll staffers.

During his time at Havenwood Heritage Heights, Wingfield drummed with resident clubs and groups, as well as residents and staff in skilled nursing and independent living parts of the community. He even involved various staff members on various shifts. During one session, for several minutes a resident in the skilled nursing facility had a dueling drum session with Wingfield. She would initiate a pattern and he would repeat it, creating a moment of intense rivalry. Another session was filmed for the Concord Community Television show Senior Speak NH, hosted by HHH resident State Representative Bob Williams. The residency's finale involved the whole community and residents' visiting family members. Wingfield masterfully wove together people who had participated during the week, resulting in a rich and colorful celebration including a conga line of dancers.

"The grant from the NH State Council on the Arts has given us a great opportunity to come together as a community with skilled facilitation. The spirit here was energized by the work of Michael Wingfield," said CEO Michael Palmieri, who drummed several times during the week. "There could not have been a better choice."

The success of the residency with Michael Wingfield inspired HHH to raise additional funds to purchase their own drums. Havenwood Heritage Heights recently received a second Arts in Health Care grant to bring Michael Wingfield back to train staff so the drumming program that was so enthusiastically received can be continued for residents and staff.

For more information about the NH Arts in Health Care Initiative, including related project grants and the new online Arts in Health Care Artist Directory, visit www.nh.gov/nharts and/or contact Judy Rigmont, Community Arts Coordinator, at Judy.L.Rigmont@dcr.nh.gov or 603/271-0794.



Arts in Health Care

Council Supports Innovative Arts in Health Care Programs



This artwork was created by a nurse during the "Art-on-the-Job" program for nurses at Dartmouth Medical Center.



Roster artist Kelly Doremus Stuart will be leading a dance program at the Merrimack County Home in Boscawen.

Photo by Glenn Stuart

Last year the State Arts Council introduced Arts in Health Care Project Grants to encourage health care and nursing home providers to apply for funding to support participatory artist in residence programs for their patients/residents, caregivers and staff. An online Arts in Health Care Directory was also created so health care providers could find trained professional artists of all disciplines who are available to oversee a variety of arts programs in their facilities. For more information about this grant opportunity and online directory, visit the Council's homepage at www.nh.gov/nharts.

During FY 07, the Council was pleased to support the following projects:

Concord Hospital, \$1,175 to support a five-session dance program led by professional dancer/choreographer for cancer survivors.

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Littleton, \$3,780 to support "Mindful Things: Exploring Memory Loss and Alzheimer's Disease through Science and Art", including professionally facilitated writing and theatre workshops for seniors.

Havenwood-Heritage Heights (HHH), Concord, \$3,155 to support artist residencies in storytelling and drumming/percussive instruments that engage retirement community residents in the creative process (see pages 10-11 for information about previous projects at HHH).

The Hitchcock Foundation, Lebanon, \$2,000 to support stress reducing art-making activities for nursing staff in the inpatient units at Dartmouth Medical Center.



With its completely accessible loom, Saori weaving can be practiced by anyone.

Photos courtesy of Bobbi Herron

Krepfels Foundation (for the brain injured), Portsmouth, \$1,500 to fund staff training on Saori weaving to sustain weaving program for their clients.

Merrimack County Home, Boscawen, \$1,000 to support a professionally led dance program for residents with severe physical impairments.

Arts in Health Care Project Grants have deadlines twice yearly, in July and January for amounts from \$1,000 to \$7,500. Guidelines are available on the web at www.nh.gov/nharts. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact Judy Rigmont, Community Arts Coordinator at the State Arts Council, to discuss their project prior to submitting an application.



In spite of mobility challenges, this participant is able to weave with a hand-held loom.



Bobbi Herron demonstrates Saori weaving to a group during an artist residency at the Krepfels Foundation.

Uphill Struggles in the Arts

Turning Challenges into Opportunities at St. Kieran

by Joan Chamberlain, Exec. Director, St. Kieran Community Center

(Right)
In 2006, the first North Country Quilt Show was hosted by Berlin Quilters Guild in partnership with St. Kieran Arts.

Photos by Joan Chamberlain

Berlin's St. Kieran Catholic Church was saved from being torn down thanks to the vision of strong local advocates. With its beautiful architectural details, its 500 seats and original pipe organ, the 1895 building reopened its doors as the St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts in November 2000. By 2001 the new arts center was operational and welcomed the public to its first full performing arts series.

Unfortunately, the timing couldn't have been worse for launching a new nonprofit arts organization. On September 10th of that year, the town's major employer, the Brown Company paper mill, closed its doors. That was followed the next day by the September 11th tragedy. Economic

repercussions were felt everywhere.

Turning their challenges into opportunities was no small feat for this rural community. Nevertheless, St. Kieran's board chairman Steve Griffin, community activist Sr. Monique Therriault, board members, and community volunteers prevailed in their vision for arts development in Berlin. An adaptive re-use plan and an open-door policy turned St. Kieran into a much-needed cultural hub for Berlin and the region.

With funding from the Corporate Fund, St. Kieran's board commissioned a study that produced a development work plan identifying the critical areas they needed to address. In 2005, I was brought on board as executive director to focus on organizational development, community arts, educational program expansion, and fundraising. In state fiscal year 2007,



the organization received two matching grants from the State Arts Council. A Cultural Facilities grant for \$8,000 helped fund much needed repairs to the building's roof and the rewiring of the fire alarm. An Organizational Support Project grant for \$5,650 assisted with technology upgrades and administrative support to facilitate the organization's future development.

Since its inception, St. Kieran Community Art Center has presented over 150 arts programs and, more recently, has garnered regional recognition as a leader in arts advocacy, educational outreach, cultural heritage, and community development. They actively participate in the Northern NH Cultural Heritage Tourism and Creative Economy initiatives and regularly host public events and meetings that inform and create discussion. By promoting economic and community development, the organization has helped to enhance the quality of life in the North Country.

Coincidentally, each performance, exhibit, and gathering fulfills the building's original purpose – to grow the spirit of cultural heritage and community.



This past May, the National Marionette Theatre of Prague performed Pinocchio to a sell-out crowd at St. Kierans.

A highlight of the 2006 performing arts series was the 750-seat sold out performance of the Nutcracker Ballet featuring the Robinson Ballet Company of Bangor, ME.

Dreaming of an Independent Movie House for Concord

by Robbie Farschman, Executive Director, Red River Theatres

Red River Theatres (RRT) was formed in 2000 in order to develop an independent movie house for downtown Concord. Barry Steelman, a founding volunteer, suggested naming the organization after the iconic 1948 Western "Red River," starring John Wayne and Montgomery Clift. Their characters undertake an epic, nearly impossible, but ultimately successful journey. It was the perfect name for the non-profit organization founded on a dream seven years ago.

Until recently, audiences faithfully attended the RRT films screened by dedicated volunteers at the NH Technical Institute (NHTI), the Capitol Center for the Arts, the Annicchiarico Theater and the Concord City Auditorium. RRT and NHTI also nurtured and grew the annual Somewhat North of Boston (S.N.O.B.) Film Festival in 2002. By providing an alternative to standard commercial fare, those screenings kept the dream of an independent theater alive and demonstrated that a core audience already existed. Further proof of the value of arts in the community, is the \$1.5M raised in a little over nine months. RRT's goal is \$1.83M.

In the fall RRT will have a permanent home in downtown Concord where it will occupy a three-theater facility in the lower two levels of the recently completed Capital Commons building on South Main Street in Concord. It is expected that the new theater will provide an infusion of cultural vibrancy to

Concord's downtown, along with a boost to the local economy.

RRT applied to the State Arts Council for help in outfitting their new home. In state fiscal year 2007, they received an \$8,000 Cultural Facilities grant to purchase seating for the 164- and 113- seat theaters. These spaces are equipped with 35 mm projection equipment and Dolby® surround sound and will accommodate live performances and lectures. The smaller 48-seat screening room will be equipped with DVD projection and also serve as a multi-function hall.



Much time, care and money has been invested to ensure a happy ending. The new theater will soon be showing foreign films, documentaries, and independent films as well as public programs featuring filmmakers and educational programs for middle and high school students.

It will be a testament to the power of dreams. As Walt Disney once said: "All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them."

Photos courtesy of Red River Theatres
These renderings by architects Sheerr McCrystal Palson, show interior and exterior views of the new theatre that is expected to open in the fall.

Learning Resources

Expanding Web Resources for Kids and Teachers

Grab your mouse and go to www.nh.gov/folklife, click on Learning Center, then click on Heritage Arts Build-A-Picture Activities and have some fun!

There seems to be no end to the creative things that can be done with web technology. Thanks to the creative teamwork of Traditional Arts coordinator Lynn Graton and the state's Office of Information Technology (OIT), there is a new, dynamic and fun way for kids, teachers and parents to learn about NH traditional arts online!

Called *Heritage Arts Build-A-Picture Activities*, the resource is targeted to grades 3 and up, ESOL students, and also interested adults. The activities can be integrated into many subject areas, especially units on NH history.

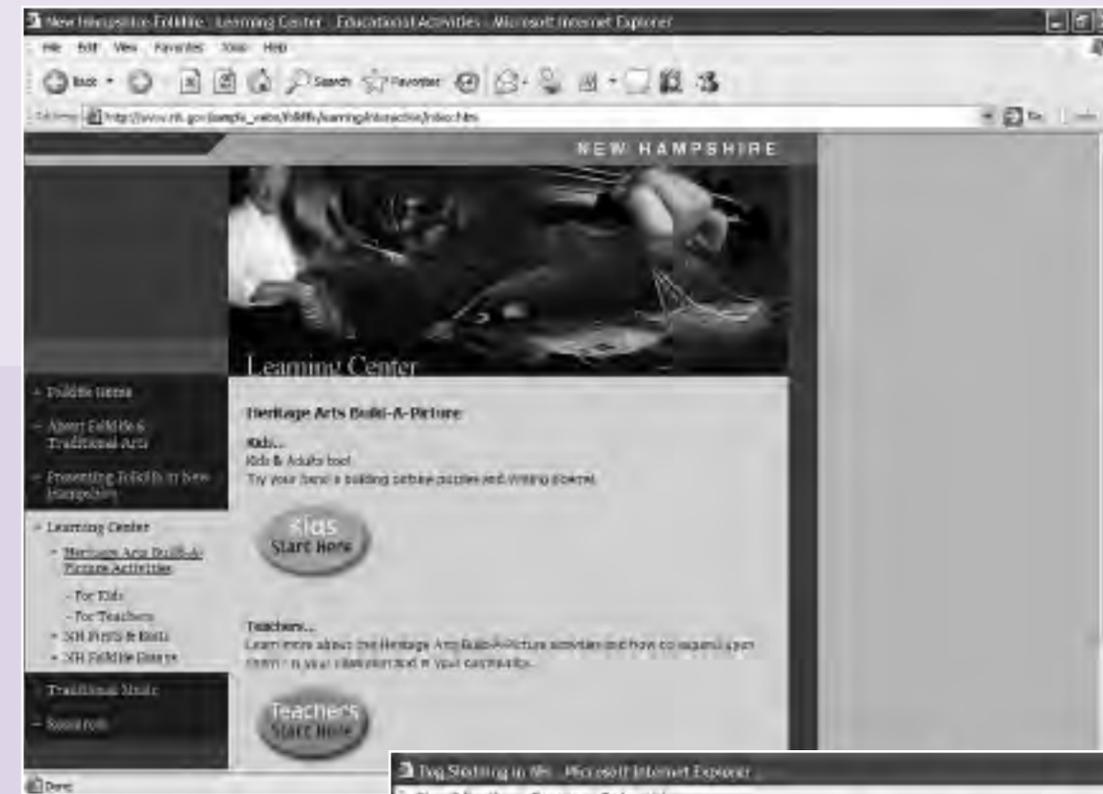
Phase I of the *Heritage Arts Build-A-Picture* series has five activities, each one focused on a distinctive NH traditional art form. Young people can start the activity by assembling a picture puzzle. Each puzzle was created using original artwork created especially for the project by NH illustrators. As the puzzle is assembled, kids can read about words, processes and objects unique to the tradition. After the puzzle is completed, the student can choose to view "spin off" pages with more information on the tradition and then write a poem. The poem and the picture can then be printed out when completed and made into a booklet.

Heritage Arts Build-A-Picture Activities has an inviting portal for students where they can go directly into the activities and have fun. There is also a teachers portal with many ideas on how to expand the activities in classrooms and communities.

An important goal of *Heritage Arts Build-A-Picture Activities* is to help young people see that traditional arts are not only a part of history but still relevant to contemporary life. Another goal is to expand the concept of "literacy" to include specific words to identify the processes, forms and tools related to traditional arts. Components of the *Heritage Arts Build-A-Picture Activities* also encourage research skills, poetic writing, and visual arts.

The original artwork from Phase I was created by NH artists Randy Miller, Gene Matras, Beth Krommes and Eileen Belanger. Phase II of the project will also bring in noted illustrator Karen Bush Holman.

Graton is serving as project director for *Heritage Arts Build-A-Picture Activities*. The activities are designed to take advantage of new innovations in web technology available through the software program "Flash." OIT staff members Heather Spear Williams and Alan Volpe are developing coding to support the activities and a team of teachers and museum educators are reviewing the content.



The web page where build-a-picture activities for both students and their teachers can be found.



The artwork for the dogsledding puzzle activity was created by NH illustrator Beth Krommes.

NH Old House and Barn Expo

Many New Hampshireites share a respect for history, and their desire to be immersed in it translates into a willingness to preserve it. That history not only lives on in our historic buildings but also in the skills of NH traditional artists.



Fiddler and accordionist Ryan Thomson was one of the traditional artists who performed at the 2007 Old House and Barn Expo.

Photos by Lynn Martin Graton

Rug maker Sandy Luckury exhibited her braided rugs.

This connection between the state's built heritage and its living traditional arts inspires the State Arts Council to support traditional art demonstrations at the NH Preservation Alliance's *Old House and Barn Exposition*, which is held every other year. The NH Preservation Alliance is a non-profit organization devoted to heightening the awareness and understanding of historic preservation issues in the state.

The 2007 *Old House and Barn Exposition* was held two days in March at the State Armory in Manchester. The traditional artists

who participated were willing to share their work. The public enjoyed and learned from demonstrations of rug hooking, rug braiding, furniture upholstery, ash basket making, timber framing, and stone wall building. Traditional musicians added to the experience with informal performances.



Rug hooker Anne Winterling (right) shows an Expo visitor some of the finer points of the craft.

The goal of the expo is to promote networking among people involved in restoring homes and public buildings and to provide accurate and useful information concerning preservation techniques, restoration goods, and services. The event featured vendor displays, hands-on workshops, and educational lectures. By supporting these educational demonstrations, the State Arts Council seeks to keep the heritage of traditional crafts and building arts a meaningful part of the public conversation involving historic preservation.

In addition to organizing the demonstrations of traditional crafts and building skills, Traditional Arts Coordinator Lynn Graton presented a lecture entitled *Traditional New England Floor Coverings- History and Techniques*. The lecture covered the history and current practices of painted floor cloths, rug hooking and rug braiding. "These floor coverings are rooted in New England and are an important part of our artistic heritage," said Graton. "Our hope is to help people learn more about this aspect of domestic craft traditions and support the artists who are preserving them."

Around the State

Congratulations to...

NH recipients of the **National Endowment for the Arts Access to Artistic Excellence Grants**. These grants encourage and support artistic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide access to the arts for all Americans. **Dartmouth College (on behalf of Hopkins Center for the Arts)** of Hanover was awarded \$45,000 to support the Visiting Performing Artist Series at the Hopkins Center. Residencies will feature presentations of new and existing works by theater artists, dance companies, choreographers, and musicians from around the world. The **MacDowell Colony** of Peterborough was awarded \$35,000 to support first-time artists' residencies. Artists will be provided a working studio and room and board for as long as two months. **National Film Preserve, Ltd.** Portsmouth, NH was awarded \$20,000 to



Dartmouth College recently received an Access to Artistic Excellence grant from the NEA to support the Visiting Artist Performance Series at the Hopkins Center for the Arts.

Photo courtesy of Dartmouth College

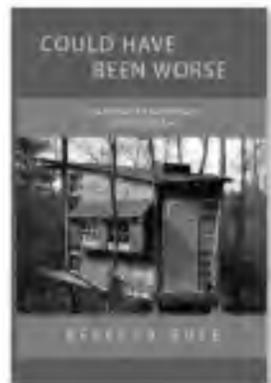
support the 34th Telluride Film Festival. Approximately 40 programs of feature-length and short films will be screened to an estimated audience of more than 6,000 people. Free seminars will be open to the public, and high school and college students will benefit from student symposia. **Opera North** of Lebanon, was awarded \$12,500 to support the Young Artist Program for singers. In its 25th season, the professional development project will provide opportunities for singers to perform in supporting operatic roles, primary roles in family matinee productions, and community outreach activities.

Writer/Artist Roster member **Rebecca Rule** of Northwood on the release of her most recent collection of short stories, *Could Have Been Worse: True Stories, Embellishments, and Outright Lies*, published by Plaidswede Publishing. Rule's previous collection, *The Best Revenge*, was named Outstanding Work of Fiction by the NH Writers Guild. She co-authored *Creating the Story* and *True Stories* with



Picnic baskets are lined up for delivery to artist studios at the MacDowell Colony. An NEA grant was awarded to the historic artist colony to support first-time artist residencies.

Photo courtesy of the MacDowell Colony



Rebecca Rule's latest book is a collection of her humorous pieces featuring the New England Yankee perspective.

Around the State

award-winning writer Susan Wheeler. "Bookmarks", her column on NH writers, appears in several of the state's newspapers. In addition, she can be seen interviewing authors for *New Hampshire Outlook* on NH Public Television and heard on WSCA Portsmouth Community Radio hosting *Speaking Volumes*, a literary variety show.



Commissioner of Cultural Resources Van McLeod accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award at the NH Theatre Awards presentation.

Photo by P.T. Sullivan

Van McLeod, Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Resources and founder of the **North Country Center for the Arts**, for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the NH Theatre Awards ceremony held at the Palace Theatre in Manchester in early February. Other winners of special awards include: **Kevin Riley**, The Award for Vision and Tenacity; **Trish Lindberg** (Plymouth), Excellence in Children's Theatre; **The Barnstormers** (Tamworth), Professional General Excellence;

and **The Peacock Players** (Nashua), Community General Excellence. An extensive list of winners can be found at www.nhtheatreawards.com.

Poet and NH Roster artist **Rodger Martin** upon the publication of his chapbook entitled *The Blue Moon Series* (Hobblebush Books). Martin is the director of the NH Poetry Out Loud Project.

The Friends of Concord City Auditorium, who were selected as a New England Regional Award winner for 2006 by the New England Theatre Conference (NETC). The Friends are recognized for their work in saving the city-owned theater, restoring and maintaining it with all-volunteer efforts, and developing the venue as a key player in the civic life of the city of Concord and NH. Friends' president Allwynne Fine will accept the award at the NETC Annual Meeting in Connecticut on November 18.

Elizabeth Knies, upon being selected as Portsmouth's poet laureate. Knies is the author of six books of poems and describes her work as personal lyric poetry. Portsmouth is unique among NH towns and cities in having its own poet laureate program. During a two year term, the laureate works on a specific project, participates in monthly poetry readings and makes appearances at various events. Run by volunteers, Portsmouth's Poet Laureate Program is dedicated to building community through poetry. Knies, who succeeds Mimi White, is the sixth poet to hold the position.



Friends of Concord City Auditorium, an all volunteer group, won the New England Regional Award for their work in saving, restoring and maintaining the building.

Photo courtesy of Concord City Auditorium

Author and NH native **Robert Olmstead**, upon the publication of his latest book *Coal Black Horse*, a civil war novel published in 2007 and in stores now. Olmstead grew up on a dairy farm where his family had farmed for generations. His was a Border's "original voices" selection for May, and was the number one April selection by BookSense. He now teaches at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Dudley Laufman of Canterbury, recipient of the Governors Arts Award for Folk Heritage and a National Heritage Fellowship nominee, upon the publication by Beech River Books of his collection of poems entitled *Walking Sticks*. This anthology is the most extensive collection of his life's work and confirms his dedication as a poet. The writing is firmly

rooted in a story-telling tradition. Laufman is also to be congratulated upon the release of the film *The Other Way Back* by David Millstone. The film documents Laufman's work as an old time barn and square dance fiddler and caller and his contribution to the New England Dance tradition. He was a key player in the dance revival of the late 1960s and 1970s.



Author Dudley Laufman is a well-known NH fiddler and caller.

Catherine Amidon, Ph.D., Director of the Karl Drerup Gallery at Plymouth State University, upon being awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. Amidon was selected "because of her academic and professional accomplishments and leadership potential." Dr. Amidon will travel to Jamaica in January where she will teach at the Edna Manley School of Arts and work at the National Gallery of Art in Kingston. She looks forward for this opportunity to research, write and teach for a semester.

AIE roster artist **Jewel B. Davis** of Dover, upon having her creative nonfiction piece "The Magic

Number" published in the June issue of *Moondance Literary Magazine*. Read it online at www.moondance.org. Davis's piece "Move Over Lucy" was published in the Fall 2006 Issue of www.SNReview.org and her story "God Wears A Headset" will appear in the upcoming 2007 Summer Solstice edition of *Cezanne's Carrot*. It will be available at www.cezannescarrot.org.

NH Fellow and Portsmouth artist **Barbara Rita Jenny**, who was awarded the 2006 Piscataqua Artist Advancement Grant of \$30,000 from the NH Charitable Foundation of Piscataqua.

Welcome to...

The Nashua Symphony Association announced that the new conductor of **The Nashua Symphony Choral Society** is professional singer **Diane T. Cushing**. (The new conductor of the **Nashua Symphony Orchestra** has not yet been announced.) Cushing received her music education at Anna Maria College, where she earned her Bachelor in Music Education. She studied conducting at Syracuse University under Dr. Rhonda Fleming, where she was Assistant Conductor to the Oratorio Society and directed the Syracuse Concert Choir. Cushing earned a Masters in Vocal Performance at Boston Conservatory, and has been heard as soloist with the MasterWorks Chorale of Boston. She currently teaches Voice at **Keene State College**, and is the Conductor of the **Keene State College Choir**.

Kathleen Soldati, who joins The Music Hall of Portsmouth as their new director of marketing. Soldati has held several management positions in both profit and nonprofit organizations, and has taught marketing for nonprofits at UNH. She was Executive Director of the League of NH Craftsmen and produced the Annual Craftsmen's Fair. She has also provided marketing expertise for NH Public Television. Through her company Soldati Public Relations in Somersworth, she offers services to both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Anita Walker, who has been appointed to head up the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). The MCC is the Massachusetts counterpart to the NH State Council on the Arts and has partnered with NH on numerous regional initiatives, most recently involving professional development for artist-educators in arts in health care settings. Both agencies are members of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). At the MCC Walker will oversee an arts budget of approximately \$13.3 million.

Farewell to...

Conductor Royston Nash, who has retired from the **Nashua Symphony Orchestra**, which he conducted for 21 years. British-born conductor Nash studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and served the Monarchy for eight years as Director of London's D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. He has also left his position with the Cape Symphony Orchestra on Cape Cod, where he was Music Director and Conductor.

Remembering...

Former NH Arts Councilor **Gail Stockwell Talbot** of Keene, who passed away at age 64. She had been on the State Arts Council for ten years and was co-founder of both the Monadnock Children's Museum and the Colonial Theatre Group. Throughout her life, she was an avid supporter of area artists, musicians and theater groups. She finished her career as a professional storyteller throughout the Monadnock Region at area schools, Keene State College, libraries and nursing homes. Talbot received the Keene State College Granite State Award and was a Paul Harris Fellow at the Keene Rotary Club.

Brad Delp, lead singer for bestselling 1970's band Boston, who died at age 55 in his Atkinson home in March. The group's self-titled 1976 debut album was one of the fastest selling in rock history with more than 17 million copies sold.

pottery using local clays. The next year, they won second prize in ceramics at the Ninth Annual Ceramic National Exhibition at Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts (now the Everson Museum). This was the first of many prestigious national awards. Essentially self-taught potters, this devoted couple, who collaborated on the production of functional pots for many decades, rose to become major figures in the studio pottery movement within a few years. Mary Scheier became expert in throwing thin-walled vessels while Ed became noted for his imaginative surface decorations and glazing.



In 1940 they were invited to teach at the University of NH in Durham, where the Scheiers lived, worked and taught until 1968. They lived in Oaxaca, Mexico and then moved to Green Valley, AZ in 1978.

The pottery of Mary and Ed Scheier is in museums across the country, including the American Craft Museum, the Everson Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Newark Museum, the Ceramic Research Center in Tempe, AZ, the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, and the Currier Museum of Art, where they gave their personal collection. The University of NH Special Collections also has important holdings of their work.

In 2001 Ken Browne Productions released a film on the Scheiers entitled *Four Hands, One Heart* that aired nationally on public television. In 2003 Mary and Edwin Scheier received the Governors Arts Award for Living Treasure. On May 10, 2007 they received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the League of NH Craftsmen. Mary Scheier is survived by her husband of 69 years, Edwin Scheier.

Mary Scheier

Living Treasure Award recipient Mary Scheier, an internationally known ceramic artist noted for her superbly thrown pottery vessels, who died May 14, 2007, at age 99 in Green Valley, AZ. Born Mary Goldsmith in 1908 in Salem, VA, she studied art in New York City in the late 1920s at Grand Central School of Art, the Art Students League, and the New York School of Fine and Applied Arts.

In 1935 Mary Scheier was appointed director of Big Stone Gap and Abingdon Art Centers, the first Federally sponsored art galleries in Virginia. There, in 1937 she met her future husband Edwin Scheier, who was then Field Supervisor of the Federal Art Project in Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina. They married August 19, 1937, and embarked upon a career together making pottery.

In 1939 they set up their first studio, Hillcrook Pottery, in Glade Spring, VA, making small sculptures and functional

Stoneware Vase by Edwin and Mary Scheier, in the permanent collection of the State of NH.

Photo by Gary Samson



Potter Mary Scheier about 1948, working in the Durham studio she shared with her husband Edwin.

Photo by Musya Sokolova Sheeler



National News

National Endowment for the Arts Funding Opportunities

The National Endowment for the Arts has announced its primary funding opportunities for arts projects for organizations. An organization may submit only one application through one of the following FY 2008 *Grants for Arts Projects* categories (see "Application Limits" for the few exceptions to this rule). For most organizations, these categories represent the full range of funding options for the entire year. Applicants should examine the goal and purposes of their project as well as the review criteria of these three categories, and apply to the one category that is most relevant. **The Arts Endowment will not transfer applications between categories.** Visit www.nea.gov for details.

- **Access to Artistic Excellence:** To encourage and support artistic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide access to the arts for all Americans. An organization may request a grant amount from \$5,000 to \$150,000. There are two deadlines yearly with the next deadline on August 13, 2007.
- **The Arts on Radio and Television:** CFDA No. 45.024 Supports projects for radio and television arts programs that are intended for national broadcast. Grants generally range from \$20,000 to \$200,000. The next deadline is Sept. 7, 2007.

2007 NEA Institute in Classical Music and Opera

October 14-24

Columbia University and the National Endowment for the Arts recently announced the 4th annual Arts Journalism Institute in Classical Music and Opera. This 11-day intensive workshop brings writers and editors from across the country to New York City for a total immersion in the world of classical music and opera. Participants will attend at least 8 performances, participate in writing workshops, take short classes in music history, and meet with leaders in the field, from administrators of New York's primary music institutions, to critics and

writers at major US publications. The institute is designed for American journalists, especially those covering the arts outside of the top media markets. No specialized musical knowledge is required. Staff writers, editors, and freelancers are welcome to apply. The application deadline is July 31, 2007. Most costs are covered by the institute, including travel to and from New York, housing, and many meals.

To apply, send an email to nea_institute@earthlink.net to request an application.

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Deadlines

Arts Partners

Grant Name	Deadline	Amount
Community Arts Project Grant	October 1, 2007	\$1,000-\$7,000
Mini-Grant	October 1, 2007	\$250-\$1,000

Arts Organizations

Grant Name	Deadline	Amount
American Masterpieces: NH Inspirations	November 12, 2007	\$1,000-\$8,000
Mini Grants	October 1, 2007	\$250-\$1,000

Individual Artists

Grant Name	Deadline	Amount
Artist Entrepreneurial Grant	October 1, 2007	\$250-\$1,000
	January 2, 2008	

For grant guidelines and application forms visit, www.nh.gov/nharts

For more information: 603/271-2789

NH Relay Services TTY/TDD: 800/735-2964

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

Established in 1965, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the New Hampshire Division of the Arts comprise the state's arts agency. Funding comes from appropriations from the State of New Hampshire and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Volunteer Arts Councilors set policies, approve grants, and advise the Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Resources on all matters concerning the arts.

The State Arts Council's mission is to *promote the arts to protect and enrich New Hampshire's unique quality of life.* The Director of the New Hampshire Division of the Arts administers the agency, which is part of the Department of Cultural Resources.

New Hampshire State Arts Councilors

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8:15 am – 4:15 pm
Closed all State and most Federal holidays



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS





Promoting the arts to protect and enrich New Hampshire's unique quality of life since 1965.

Inside this issue

New Chief Grants Officer
Four New Arts Councilors
NH Heritage Arts Activities on the Web
Collections Management and Adopt an Artwork
Arts and Health Care Projects

Coming up in future issues

FY 2008 Grants
NH Fellows
Governors Arts Awards nominees



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